



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING



THOMAS D. WATKINS, JR.
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

January 21, 2004

MEMORANDUM

TO: Institutions of Higher Education Deans, Institutions of Higher Education Committee Members, Intermediate School District Superintendents and Directors of Special Education, Local Educational Agency Superintendents and Directors of Special Education, Chief Executive Officers of Public School Academies, and Michigan Association of School Personnel Administrators

FROM: Jacquelyn J. Thompson, Ph.D., Director
Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services

SUBJECT: Speech-Language Pathology Assistants

On November 30, 2003, the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) informed states that ASHA has discontinued the registration program for speech-language pathology assistants (SLPAs). Enclosed is a copy of the memorandum from AHSA.

Previously, the Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services (OSE/EIS) announced that school districts may hire SLPAs. However, due to ASHA's decision, the OSE/EIS will **not** be able to recognize SLPAs in Michigan as professional personnel. School districts will not be able to report costs for the 2003-2004 school year, or following years under this professional qualification. If ASHA decides to register or certify SLPAs in the future, the OSE/EIS will revisit this issue.

If you have further questions regarding this matter, please contact Dr. Joanne Winkelman, Coordinator, Policy, Planning, and Compliance Program, OSE/EIS, at (517) 373-1696 or via email at winkelmanj@michigan.gov

Enclosure

OSE/EIS 04-04

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MEMORANDUM

Date: November 2003

To: Speech-Language Pathology Assistants (SLPAs)
Supervisors of SLPAs
Operational and developing technical training programs for SLPAs
State agencies, associations, related professional organizations

Re: Discontinuation of SLPA Registration and Training Program Approval Processes at ASHA

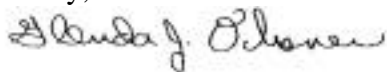
At its Spring 2003 meeting, ASHA's governance group—the Legislative Council (LC)—passed a resolution to discontinue the registration program for speech-language pathology assistants (SLPAs) and the approval process for SLPA training programs as of December 31, 2003. [The full resolution and the 2003 LC meeting minutes are accessible via the ASHA website at <http://www.asha.org/about/leadership-projects/LC2/Spring-2003-LC-Minutes.htm>]

Since ASHA will no longer be approving technical training programs or registering individuals as SLPAs, all registration materials and applications for approval have been returned to applicants. Resolution LC 2-2003 also calls for the updating of all ASHA documents as necessary in accordance with this resolution. Enclosed are the revised "Frequently Asked Questions on Speech-Language Pathology Assistants" which are also accessible via the ASHA website at http://www.asha.org/about/membership-certification/faq_slpasst.htm. Additional policy documents will be revised in the near future to reflect the discontinuation of the ASHA registration and approval programs, and will be disseminated. [Update as of February 2004: two ASHA policy documents regarding SLPAs are currently open for peer review through March 5, 2004 at http://www.asha.org/peer_reviews.htm]

ASHA will continue to support the appropriate use and supervision of SLPAs in accordance with the ASHA position statement and guidelines regarding assistants. While guidelines for SLPA training programs may also be in place, there will no longer be formal recognition for SLPA training programs nor a registry for SLPAs. Should any changes occur with the decision of the Legislative Council regarding a recognition process for SLPAs and/or training programs for SLPAs in the future, it will be shared with you.

Thank you for your interest in ASHA's speech-language pathology assistant (SLPA) programs, and in extending the services provided by speech-language pathologists through the appropriate use of assistants.

Sincerely,



Glenda J. Ochsner
President, ASHA

Enclosures